

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 02787 281333Z

43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MC-02 ACDA-05 AID-05 EB-07 COME-00

OMB-01 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 /071 W

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O R 281244Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3526

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 2787

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, BE

SUBJECT: F-104 REPLACEMENT

REF: BRUSSELS 2644

1. AT OUR REQUEST, REPRESENTATIVES OF GENERAL DYNAMICS AND PRATT AND WHITNEY CALLED ON BOURGUIGNON AND BOLAND OF MINISTRY OF ECONOMICS THIS WEEK TO EMPHASIZE ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO BELGIUM WHICH WOULD RESULT FROM CHOICE OF F-16 PLANE.

2. BOTH BOURGUIGNON AND BOLAND PRESSED COMPANY REPRESENTATIVES TO EXPAND ON HOW MUCH NEW TECHNOLOGY WOULD BE TRANSFERRED TO BELGIANS AND WHEN SUCH TRANSFERS WOULD OCCUR IN LIFE OF PROGRAM. THEY ALSO SAID THEY NEEDED MORE INFORMATION AND ASSURANCES ON IMPLEMENTATION OF CO-PRODUCTION IN BELGIUM, PARTICULARLY ON HOW "REASONABLY COMPETITIVE" CRITERION WOULD BE INTERPRETED. BOLAND WANTED DATA ON QUANTITIES TO BE CO-PRODUCED, NOT ONLY VALUE OF CO-PRODUCTION, WHICH HE
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PAGE 02 BRUSSE 02787 281333Z

SAID WAS NEEDED FOR TRANSLATION INTO EMPLOYMENT IN

BELGIUM FROM CO-PRODUCTION.

3. BOTH MINISTRY OFFICIALS SAID MINISTER OLEFFE NEEDED

TO ASSURE BELGIAN INDUSTRY THAT CO-PRODUCTION PROPOSED BY US WOULD INDEED BE IMPLEMENTED AND THAT ASSURANCES THUS FAR WERE NOT ALTOGETHER SOLID ENOUGH FOR MINISTER TO TAKE POSITIVE, FIRM POSITION ON BENEFITS TO BELGIAN ECONOMY IN US OFFER.

4. KENNEDY OF PRATT AND WHITNEY HAS RETURNED TO HIS HOME OFFICE IN HARTFORD TO OBTAIN REQUESTED DATA AND WILL RETURN NEXT WEEK. GENERAL DYNAMICS REPRESENTATIVES HAVE RECOMMENDED THAT JIMJIM BIGGS, THEIR EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT IN ST. LOUIS, COME TO BRUSSELS WITH DATA REQUESTED. PRATT AND WHITNEY AND GENERAL DYNAMICS REPRESENTATIVES HAVE APPOINTMENT TO SEE BOURGUIGNON AND BOLAND AT 10:00 A.M. APRIL 2.

5. WE RECOMMEND THAT A KNOWLEDGEABLE AND AUTHORITATIVE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL COME TO BRUSSELS TO MEET WITH ECONOMICS MINISTRY TOGETHER WITH GENERAL DYNAMICS AND PRATT AND WHITNEY REPRESENTATIVES. THIS MAY BE A CRUCIAL MEETING AND WE SHOULD PUT OUR BEST FOOT FORWARD.

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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